



# USAID | PHILIPPINES

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## PRESS CLIPPINGS

Office of Program Resources Management

(632) 552-9907

*Wednesday, August 17, 2005*

**“USAID/Philippines does not vouch for the accuracy or the opinions of the articles provided in this press clipping service and assume no responsibility for their content. Please contact USAID/Philippines at [usaidth@mozcom.com](mailto:usaidth@mozcom.com) if you have any questions about USAID programs and projects.”**

### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #12 (SO12)**

**(Conflict Reduced in Mindanao and Other Areas Vulnerable to Violence)**

## **Trading center built in S’gani village noted for blast fishing**

MAASIM, Sarangani — Officials from Sarangani and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) kicked off Thursday the construction of a trading center in a barangay noted for dynamite fishing in the early 90s.

But fishermen have since adopted non-destructive fishing methods after realizing that dynamite fishing reduces fish catch, Sarangani Gov. Migs Dominguez said, quoting Tinoto’s 2002 Barangay Development Plan.

“Today, fish vendors dot the road crossing the barangay. We can see dried fish along the highway in Tinoto,” added Maasim Mayor Aniceto Lopez Jr.

USAID gave ₱1.396 million, with local government counterpart of ₱358,000, for the construction of the Tinoto Trading Center on a 180 square meters “open-type structure” expected to be operational in 60 days.

Dominguez said the center would offer “more orderly and organized trading activities that will help decongest traffic in the national highway and reduce the likelihood of road accidents.”

“The United States government is delighted to have the opportunity to be partners with the local government,” said Robert Barnes, economic advisor of USAID. He said environmental management is among the concerns of USAID.

Under the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, USAID “plans to build 800 of this community infrastructure projects throughout what we call the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao,” Barnes said.

“This demonstrates what can happen when people choose the path of peace rather than the path of war. “The Tinoto Trading Center is a symbol of the kind of progress that can occur once an area has become peaceful and people do become willing to invest money in the region, to resume or expand business activities,” he added.

The governor also emphasized the “effects of development” and pointed out that “Maasim has probably accounted for the most number of investments in the whole province” in his first year as governor. (Bong Reblando)

**(Source: Manila Bulletin, 8/17/05, page H4)**